



News from **Councilmember Todd Gloria**

City of San Diego ▪ District Three

Friends,

I admit that I love my job. A great community coffee with WalkSanDiego and many neighbors at Caffé Calabria in North Park last Saturday and a full City Council schedule this week are energizing, and I'm excited about what we are accomplishing.

I thank Kathleen Ferrier of [WalkSanDiego](#) for allowing me to demonstrate the new app, BestWALK before we settled in for a discussion focused largely on mobility and infrastructure. Check out the app and help us determine what needs to be done to make our communities more walkable and improve our quality of life.

Bike Sharing: Coming Spring 2013

On Monday, Mayor Jerry Sanders and Council President Pro Tem Kevin Faulconer joined me to announce steps we're taking to bring bike sharing to our City.

Bike sharing is a concept widely used in cities across the nation, and it provides public access to modern bicycles for short trips and serves as an affordable transportation alternative to driving. The City recently issued a Request for Sponsorship, which will allow companies to express interest in partnering with the City to create a program in our urban neighborhoods.

I understand that ours will be the first bike sharing program in the region, and it will be one of the first in the nation to operate without public funding.

One of the greatest impacts of the bike sharing program is that it will provide a link to and from public transportation lines. When examining ways of adding ridership to our buses and trolleys, one of the primary challenges is getting people from their origins to transit and from transit to their destinations. Having bike sharing facilities near transit hubs would make transit a better option. Bike sharing will also help address parking problems and traffic congestion as fewer people use cars.

When I was in Washington, D.C. last week, I witnessed its amazingly successful bike sharing program. Corrals with several shareable bikes were quickly emptied by morning commuters there, and large groups of businesspeople in suits rode along busy streets. I know our bike sharing program will be similarly beneficial here, and we hope to have it implemented in Spring 2013.

Targeting Abandoned Properties

Since my early days as Chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee in 2009, I have fought for tough new measures to more effectively deal with properties that negatively impact neighborhoods throughout the City. Yesterday, the City Council unanimously approved the Abandoned Properties Ordinance.

The Abandoned Properties Ordinance expands the definition of what constitutes an abandoned property and imposes more stringent maintenance requirements while making it easier for police and code inspectors to respond to nuisance properties.

By broadening the definition of abandoned properties and identifying those with code violations as public nuisances, the ordinance allows the City to be more aggressive in addressing vacant properties, especially those that have become unsightly because of litter and debris or that have become centers for gang and other illegal activity. The ordinance would allow the City to require property owners to file their plans on restoring properties to productive use. It also addresses vacant foreclosed properties, which blight neighborhoods and pull down property values.

The Abandoned Properties Ordinance gives the City the leverage we need to resolve troublesome properties, which are found in neighborhoods throughout San Diego. This is a long time coming, and I'm especially grateful to my colleague, Councilmember Sherri Lightner, for pushing for the ordinance when she served as chair of the Land Use and Housing Committee in 2011.

Boring but Important: Budget and Finance Committee to Discuss Reserves

In last week's email to you, I shared the wake up call provided by the San Diego City Employees' Retirement System (SDCERS) that the City's contributions are set to go up by a whopping \$37 million to about \$273.2 million in Fiscal Year 2014, largely because of the impacts of Proposition B, which was approved by voters in June.

With this context, the status of the City's financial reserves is especially relevant. I have scheduled a hearing at next Wednesday's Budget and Finance Committee meeting focused on our reserves and actions the City may want to pursue to ensure our fiscal strength and a high quality of life for San Diegans. I encourage you to attend or watch on [CityTV 24](#).

Utility Undergrounding Workshop is September 24

Thank you to the many folks who have already RSVP'ed for the utility undergrounding workshop scheduled for next Monday evening. Please continue to spread the word!

At the workshop, utility companies and neighbors will discuss the impact of utility boxes on neighborhood character and the process for community input into the placement and aesthetics of the boxes.

Early this summer, I brought forward community concerns about utility boxes to local utility companies, who agreed to a series of public workshops to address common issues. The first workshop was held by the Community Planners Committee on July 24. The session at Balboa Park will focus more on public comments and questions.

Utility Undergrounding Workshop
Monday, September 24
6:00 – 8:30 p.m.
Santa Fe Room at the Balboa Park Club

Please RSVP to toddgloria@sandiego.gov.

Financial Planning Day

I am looking forward to hosting 2012 San Diego Financial Planning Day on October 6. Certified Financial Planners will provide free guidance on topics including improving your credit score, preventing identity theft, managing your money, career planning, first time homebuying, and several more. The flier attached has all the information, including how to register. Please join me, Mayor Jerry Sanders, and County Treasurer-Tax Collector Dan McAllister for this great opportunity.

Financial Planning Day
Saturday, October 6, 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.
Port Pavilion at Broadway Pier
1000 North Harbor Dr.

Community Meetings and Events**Capital Improvement Program Community Budget Training**

TODAY, September 20, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.

Metropolitan Operations Center II Auditorium, 9192 Topaz Way

The Community Planners Committee (CPC) has arranged for this first-ever special training session by the City on the Capital Improvement Program Budget Process. This session will include hard copy handouts of material being developed by the City. This is part of my ongoing effort as the Budget and Finance Committee Chair to include more public input in the CIP development process.

Hillcrest Business Association – Beautification Committee Meeting

Monday, September 24, 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.
3737 5th Ave., Ste. 202

The majority of the Hillcrest Business Association's budget is set aside for neighborhood beautification projects, which are overseen by its Beautification Committee and Maintenance Assessment District Committee. These projects include neighborhood cleaning, gardening, security, and lighting. Please RSVP if attending to benjamin@hillcrestbia.org.

Hillcrest Business Association – Parking Advocacy

Wednesday, September 26, 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.
3737 5th Ave., Ste. 202

The Hillcrest Parking Committee advocates for parking improvements that benefit the HBA's members. The Parking Committee worked with the Uptown Partnership to champion the completion of the Normal Street median improvement project and the creation of a universal parking validation program. Weigh in on your parking-related priorities and be part of the solution to the neighborhood's parking challenges.

Advanced CEQA Training

Thursday, September 27, 6:00 – 8:00 p.m.
9192 Topaz Way, Kearny Mesa

RSVP required: SDPlanninggroups@sandiego.gov, 619-235-5200

Recognized community planning groups have a role in the review of discretionary projects in their community. Copies of development plans for new projects are forwarded to planning groups early in the review process. Whether you're a planning group member or not, you may be interested in hearing about some ways to provide effective comments to the City for consideration and inclusion with the decision makers' information on the project. Additionally, attendees will learn how the City's environmental review process under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) affects public and private development projects

South Castle City Heights Community Cleanup and Recycling Event

Saturday, October 13, 8:00 a.m.

Please see the attached map for the service area.

The City of San Diego Environmental Services Department will pick up the following items: appliances, electronics (including televisions and computers), lawnmowers (empty of gas and oil), metals, wood and yard trimmings (bundled and tied and not more than 50 lbs. or 6' long), carpeting, junk furniture, mattresses, palm fronds (bundled and tied and not more than 50 lbs. or 6' long).

Separate waste and metals and place them at the point of regular trash collection. Do not use automated refuse containers for this cleanup.

Environmental Services will not accept light bulbs/tubes, dirt, construction or demolition rubble, hazardous waste (paint, motor oil, batteries), propane tanks, gas cylinders, or tires. For more information about the proper disposal of these items, please call 858-694-7000.

Register to Vote

Please note that the last day to register to vote for the November election is October 22. If you have never registered or if you have recently moved and want to vote in your current neighborhood, this is the time to act. Additional important dates from the [San Diego County Registrar of Voters](#) are below.

October 8, 2012: First day mail ballots will be available. First day that early voting is available at RoV. RoV is open for voting 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday.

October 15, 2012: Mail ballot processing (signature checking) begins. To observe, call 858-694-3403.

October 22, 2012: Last Day to Register to Vote

October 26, 2012: Opening and preparing mail ballots for computer tabulation.

October 29, 2012: Mail ballot scanning process begins (computer processing). To observe, call 858-694-3403

October 30, 2012: Last Day to Apply for a Mail Ballot. Requests are due to the RoV by 5:00 p.m.

November 3, 2012: Weekend voting at RoV. Registrar of Voters will be open for voting from 8:00 a.m. through 5:00 p.m.

November 6, 2012: Election Day. Polls and the Registrar of Voters are open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Thank you for the opportunity to serve,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Todd". The signature is stylized with a large, looping 'T' and a cursive 'odd'.

Todd

If you would no longer like to receive updates, please visit
<http://www.sandiego.gov/citycouncil/cd3>.